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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/723,029	11/27/2000	Dieter Pauschinger	P00,1848	5658

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SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
6600 SEARS TOWER
CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473

EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/723,029

Applicant(s)

PAUSCHINGER ET AL

Examiner

Firmin Backer

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

This is in response to an amendment file on June 24th, 2004. In the amendment, claims 1 has been amended, no claim has been canceled, and no claim has been added. Claims 1-4, 6-24 remain pending in the letter.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 6-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 6-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook (U.S. PG Pub 2003/0112419) in view of Phillips et al (U.S. Patent No 6,226,463).
4. Regarding claim 1, Silverbrook teaches a method for protecting a device against operating with an unallowable tangible consumable product (*a method or preventing the used of cloned version of high volumes consumables*) (see paragraph 2074 on page 95) comprising

Art Unit: 3621

storing (*at the data storage integrity*) plurality of reference code words (*consumables state data, such as serial number*) at a data center, generating (*reading*) a code word (*serial number*) having a predetermine relationship to at least one of the reference code words, electronically allocating the generated code word to an electronic representation of a tangible consumable product and storing the electronic allocation at the data center (*see paragraphs 2087-2095*), aggregating each physical authentic tangible replacement consumable product, corresponding to the electronically represented tangible consumable product with the generated code word by generating an identification number embodying the generated code word and aggregating the identification number with each physical authentic tangible replacement consumable product at a manufacturer (*see paragraphs 2087-2106*), at the data center, checking authenticity of the proposed tangible replacement consumable product by determining whether the code word embodied in the identification number aggregated with the proposed tangible replacement consumable and transmitted via the link has the predetermined relationship with the at least one reference code word stored at the data center and if so, authorizing the proposed tangible replacement product and via the link informing the device from the data center whether the proposed tangible replacement is authorized (*see paragraphs 2107-2114, 2174-2182*). Silverbrook et al fail to teach an inventive concept of a device located remote from the data center, detecting an operation to replace a tangible consumable product in the device with a proposed tangible replacement consumable product having an identification number aggregated therewith upon the detection of the operation, automatically establishing a communication link between the device and the data center and communicating the identification number aggregated with the proposed, tangible replacement consumable product to the data center from the device via the link. However,

Art Unit: 3621

Phillips et al teach a device located remote from the data center, detecting an operation to replace a tangible consumable product in the device with a proposed tangible replacement consumable product having an identification number aggregated therewith, upon the detection of the operation, automatically establishing a communication link between the device and the data center and communicating the identification number aggregated with the proposed, tangible replacement consumable product to the data center from the device via the link (*see abstract, summary of the invention and figs, 1, 3, column 4 lines 22-5 line 14*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the inventive concept of Silverbrook to include Phillips et al's device located remote from the data center, detecting an operation to replace a tangible consumable product in the device with a proposed tangible replacement consumable product having an identification number aggregated therewith, upon the detection of the operation, automatically establishing a communication link between the device and the data center and communicating the identification number aggregated with the proposed, tangible replacement consumable product to the data center from the device via the link because this would provide an image forming apparatus such as laser printers contain several consumable items that must be replaced during the life of the apparatus, developing cartridges containing toner can be inserted into and removed from the image forming apparatus, and normally when the toner is used up the developing cartridge is replaced with a new developing cartridge.

5. Regarding claims 2 and 3, Silverbrook teaches a method of designating/applying the identification number embodying the generated code word on a carrier and permanently affixing the carrier to each authentic, tangible replacement consumable (*see paragraphs 2087-2095*).

6. Regarding claim 4, Silverbrook teaches a method of selecting a technique for aggregating each authentic tangible replacement consumable product with the identification number embodying the generated code word dependent on a physical nature of the authentic tangible replacement consumable (*see paragraphs 2087-2095*).

7. Regarding claims 6-24, they disclose the same inventive concept as claims 1-4. Therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

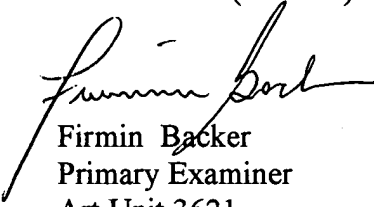
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Firmin Backer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

October 31, 2004